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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Toshiaki KAKUTANI

SERIAL NO: 09/339,959

GAU: 2697

FILED: June 25, 1999

EXAMINER: MELANIE M. VIDA

FOR: PRINTER SYSTEM, METHOD OF PRINTING, AND RECORDING MEDIUM FOR IMPLEMENTING THE METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

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SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

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REFERENCES

- The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references cited in the attached Japanese Office Action listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

- Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s), together with a copy of the claims and drawings of the pending application(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.
- A check or credit card payment form is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.
- No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

- Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check or credit card payment is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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FOR IMPLEMENTING THE METHOD**RECEIVED****STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY**

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Reference AO (JP 3-50960) on Form PTO 1449:

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This reference discloses a multi-valuing process that uses an error diffusion method. The technique of this reference utilizes a matrix of threshold values shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 to perform the multi-valuing process that uses the so-called error diffusion method. In other words, the threshold values that are used for the multi-valuing differ from pixel to pixel. In the method of this reference, however, the threshold values are not chosen according to tone values of image data. Also, discloses the tone expression method that uses the error diffusion method.

Reference AP (WO 98/03341) on Form PTO 1449:

Fig. 17 discloses a technique of changing threshold values according to tone values (data DC), where the threshold values are utilized in a binarization process that uses an error diffusion method.